

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## THE HIGHWAY COMMISSION WOULD KEEP CHAIN GANG

Petition Legislature Not to Abolish It, Claiming That As A "Hard, Cold Business Proposition", It Pays to Keep Them

Approaching the question from what they call "a hard, cold, business standpoint", and leaving the question of the humanity of the thing entirely out of it, the Pasquotank Highway Commission is opposed to the abolition of the convict system of road working in Pasquotank county and will resist the efforts of the Board of County Commissioners to have the system abolished by legislation.

The Pasquotank chain gang has been twice condemned by grand juries and the members of the Board of County Commissioners have petitioned the General Assembly now in session at Raleigh to abolish it. The Commissioners claim that it is costly, inefficient and makes for criminality by populating the county with criminals. It is claimed many convicts sent here from other counties to work on the chain gang make their home here after their terms of imprisonment expire. But the Highway Commission, with the records before it, declares that convict labor is cheaper, more efficient and more dependable than free labor and claims it can show that convict labor costs the county only \$1.53 a day, against \$3.25 to \$3.50 a day for free labor.

The petition of the Highway Commission, addressed to our senators and representative in the General Assembly this week goes into the cost of the convict system. The petitioners set forth their claims as follows:

**The Petition**  
"We understand a petition is being circulated among our citizens requesting our representatives to abolish by legislation our present method of road maintenance by convict labor on the argument that the roads can be maintained cheaper with free labor."

"This argument is not borne out by the facts as shown by a careful examination of our County Auditor's records and before abolishing the present system we most earnestly request that you take such steps as you desire to thoroughly convince yourself of the actual facts of the cost of convict labor to our county."

"We have a number of times had our Auditor compute the actual cost per day of our convict labor, as a business proposition, to see if we really were obtaining labor at lower cost with our present convict system than could be obtained by free labor, and his reports have always shown a saving in favor of the convict system."

**Relative Cost of Convict and Free Labor**  
"We attach a statement from the County Auditor for the entire year of 1920 which shows the total cost for guards and foremen, provisions, clothing, fuel, conveying prisoners, capture awards, drugs, etc. for the entire year \$7045.83."

"We have had an average of 12 convicts during the year and on the basis of 25 days per month actual work done, this figures a daily wage rate of \$2.14 per man."

"During this same period the average daily wage of free labor has been in this section \$3.25 to \$3.50 per day."

"The apparent saving therefore is \$1.13 to \$1.36 per day per man."

"However, in the gross amount of \$7045.83 there is included the yearly wage of 3 men who act both as guards and foremen."

"Under the plan of free labor it would be necessary to retain at least 2 foremen, for with about 400 miles of road to maintain it would be impractical to attempt the maintenance of this mileage without two foremen."

"Therefore the gross amount chargeable to the convict labor should be reduced about \$2000.00 making the proper charge against gang of 12 convicts \$5,045.83 bringing the daily cost per day to the county \$1.53."

"This therefore means a real saving of \$1.72 to \$1.97 per day per man in favor of convict labor."

"These figures are not estimates but taken from the actual records of the past year as shown by our Auditor's records."

"On the matter of cost of labor therefore, we feel our county would suffer greatly to change our present system."

**Relative Efficiency**  
"The difficulty of obtaining a fair day's work from ordinary labor is well known to anyone having had experience in handling labor for the last few years."

"It has been next to impossible to secure even fair results."

"It is a matter of record that the daily output of all classes of labor has steadily decreased until it has become apparent to everyone whether an employer or not."

"We are sure you must have observed this and know it is a fact."

"It is equally evident that in working convicts, conditions are such as naturally result in a fairer day's output do not now obtain, yet even a casual observer can note that man for man the convicts are today doing more work than the average man on free labor."

"That the work of our convict gang is really efficient is abundantly proven by the statement of State Highway Inspector (Concluded on Page 8)

### NORFOLK SOUTHERN WILL CURTAIL TRAIN SERVICE

Elizabeth City Division Will Have Only Four Trains Daily

Instead of Six  
The Norfolk Southern Railroad will discontinue its daily passenger trains between Belhaven and Norfolk, known as trains 5 and 6. This service was inaugurated only a few months ago in place of the daily local service between Norfolk and Edenton. The train is to be taken off entirely within the next few days and Elizabeth City will find itself with only two north-bound trains daily, instead of three. E. D. Kyle, traffic manager of the Norfolk Southern, was in this city this week and broke the news gently to the directors of the Chamber of Commerce. He said the train will be discontinued as a temporary expedient only in the interest of economy, and will be restored as soon as conditions begin to approach normal. A heavy falling off in the volume of travel in recent months is given as the reason for the curtailment of service.

The taking off of the Belhaven-Norfolk local will necessitate a radical change in the schedules of trains numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4. The new schedules have not been announced, but it has been suggested that train No. 3 from Raleigh and New Bern to Norfolk, arriving at Elizabeth City at 6:30 a. m. at present, will arrive here about 7:30 a. m. Train No. 4 now leaving Norfolk for Raleigh at 8:30 p. m. would leave Norfolk about 7:30 p. m. What change will be made in trains 2 and 4 has not been indicated.

### REBUILT VENEER PLANT IS NOW IN OPERATION

Foreman-Derrickson Begins to Manufacture Truck Barrels and Shooks

The rebuilt plant of Foreman-Derrickson Veneer Company on Pennsylvania Avenue began work last week and will be in full operation within a few days. The plant is situated on a four-acre site at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and Knobs Creek, and is one of seven operated by the company, the other six being located in Virginia.

The Foreman-Derrickson mill in this city was burned last September, after having been rebuilt and fitted with about \$20,000 worth of additional machinery. Running full blast, it could turn out about 4,000 truck barrels a day, with a force of 100 men. It was valued at \$75,000 and carried about \$70,000 insurance.

The new plant is somewhat larger than the old one, and is large enough to turn out more work, should business demand. It started work last week with about 50 employees, and this force will be supplemented as business picks up. The plant is equipped with all necessary machinery for converting the gum logs from the forests of northeastern North Carolina into truck barrels and spindles and pea crates, supplying the farmers of this section and furnishing the plants in Virginia with material to be assembled into shooks.

The Foreman-Derrickson plant is owned by J. W. Derrickson, of Norfolk, and W. B. Foreman, of Burgaw, N. C. E. Roy Chesson is resident manager.

### TYRRELL FOLKS DECIDE IN FAVOR OF THE TICK

Hon. H. L. Swain, of Columbia, Senator for the Second Senatorial District of this State, was down in Tyrrell to learn the sentiment of his people toward the proposed bill for the repeal of the cattle tick laws which bill he is now supporting in the General Assembly. A meeting was held in the Court House at Columbia on Tuesday noon and about 20 citizens of Tyrrell were present. Their opinion was that the enforcement of dipping vat regulations would require a useless expenditure of money unless a "no fence law" was enacted for the entire section. The matter of enacting a "no fence law" came up later in the meeting and it was decided by those present that a "no fence law" would not do for the Second Senatorial District.

### SMALLPOX AT ALLIGATOR

Five cases of smallpox are causing considerable uneasiness at Lake Landing in the Alligator section of Tyrrell County. The epidemic was spread by a colored man who caught the disease in Plymouth. Citizens in Columbia are considerably worried because the smallpox epidemic is only 14 miles from their town, and travel between the two points has not been curtailed.

**FOR SALE**—An Overland Touring Car in good condition. Good tires. Can be bought cheap. Reason for selling, have two cars. Can be seen and tried at No. 10 Purse St. Phone 470-W between 12 and 1 or after 6 o'clock.

## WILL PROBE GAS AND POWER RATE

City To Hold Hearing as to Why Temporary Rate Granted Sometime Ago is Still Maintained

Believing that conditions justify a reduction in power and gas rates, the Board of Aldermen of Elizabeth City will conduct a hearing on the matter, Monday night, February 7. Officials of both the power and light, and gas companies have been requested to explain to the city why reductions cannot be made.

Both companies have been working under a temporary increase in rates, which was granted sometime back and Elizabeth City people believe that in the face of things as they now stand, the present rates are too high. The matter came up before the meeting about three weeks ago, their attention having been called to gas reductions in several other cities; the Washington gas company having allowed a discount of 15 per cent. in addition to its regular discount of 10 per cent on all bills.

While the people are clamoring for a reduction in what they call an exorbitant rate, the power and gas companies claim that business is being done at a loss. The gas people claim that it is necessary to get the present rate on its product in order to break even, arguing that raw material contracted for sometime ago and which must be used, will not justify a lower rate for a few months.

Consumers of gas do not seem so dissatisfied with the service, as are they who groan at the electric service the town has been receiving for several months.

### GROWING COLUMBIA BANK HOLDS ITS FIRST BANQUET

The first event of the kind ever held by a Columbia institution occurred last week when the Merchants and Farmers Bank of that town gave a banquet to its stockholders and friends.

An elaborate three course dinner was served to the 40 guests. The feast was followed by several short addresses stressing the necessity of cooperation and confidence in our present day business problems.

The speakers of the evening were: C. E. Thompson, a director of the First Citizens National Bank of Elizabeth City, and a stockholder of the Merchants and Farmers Bank; J. L. Smith, the Columbia Methodist pastor; Rev. R. S. Monds, the Baptist pastor; J. C. Gattin, cashier of the Peoples Bank of Creswell; S. S. Woodley, cashier of the Tyrrell County Bank of Columbia president and cashier respectively of the Merchants and Farmers Bank.

The occasion was doubly interesting as it was given by the largest bank in the county and was the first similar event to occur in Columbia.

### LOCAL SHIP REPAIRERS MOVING NOW TO NORFOLK

Buxton, Inc., formerly Buxton-Wilson Inc., who have been doing general ship repair work in this city for about two years, are moving to Norfolk this week, where a suitable plant for ship repair work has been located.

The Buxton-Wilson people rebuilt their craft at this port and have operated several lines of steamers in the Tidewater water sections of Virginia and North Carolina. Chiefly among the extension of their shipping lines is a plan to place a steamer on the run between Norfolk and points along the James River at an early date.

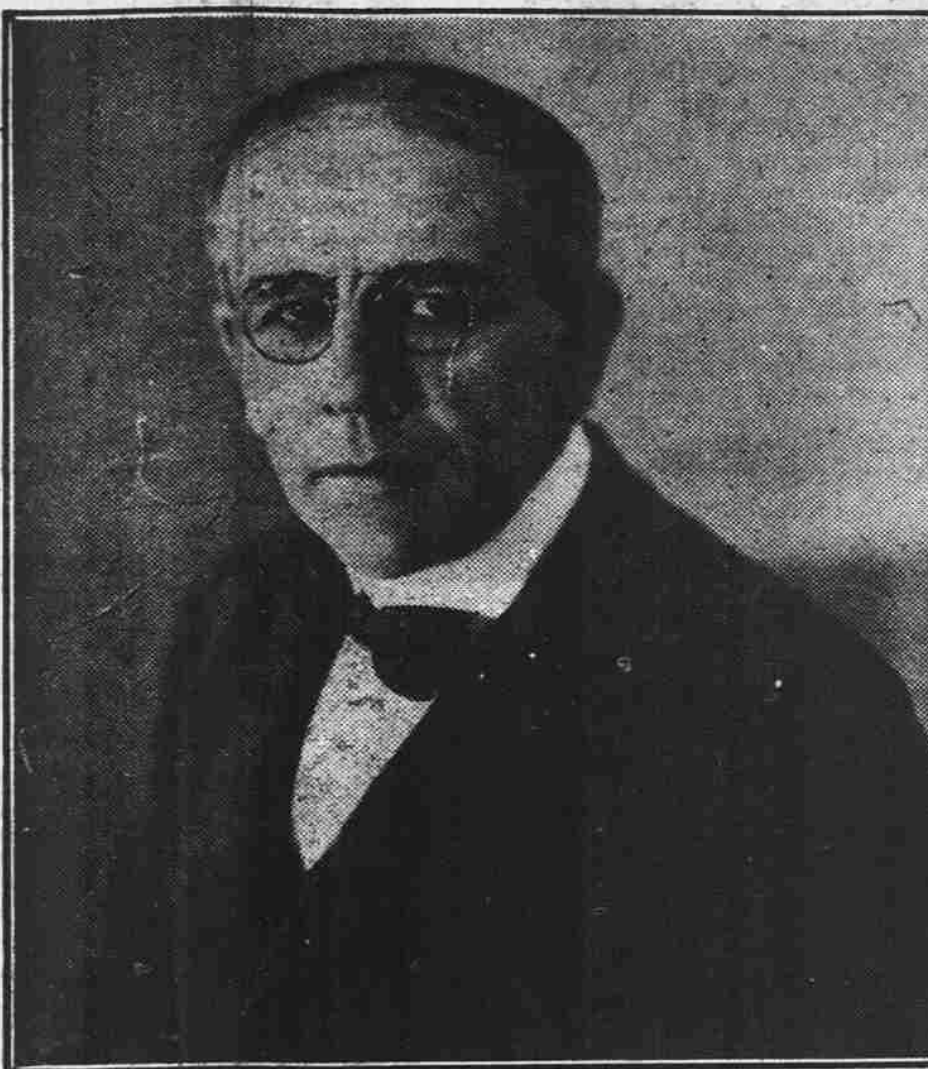
### ANOTHER STEAMER BOUGHT BY THE NORTH RIVER LINE

The North River Line has just purchased the steamer "Gen. J. B. Carr" which was formerly owned by the Chesapeake Ferries Company, of Newport News and Norfolk. The "General Carr" is a 50-ton steamer and was used by the Government during the war. After being overhauled it will be placed on the run between this city and points in Currituck. The steamer "Vansciver" which formerly as on this run is now in Norfolk being repaired. Another steamer the "Appomattox", which the North River Line purchased some time ago will ply between this city and Fairfield in Hyde County as soon as repairs now being made are finished.

What can a woman do that will make a horse go, a dog come and a man stay? Make a noise like a kiss.

**FOR SALE**—Seven room house and good neighborhood. \$800 down and easy payments for balance. Apply to A. W. Haskett, Elizabeth City, N. C. p4-2t

## He Will Leave Elizabeth City



L. D. CASE

LORENZO D. CASE, for nearly three years secretary of the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce, has resigned and his resignation has been accepted by the Board of Directors. Mr. Case will go to Charlottesville, Va., to take the office of Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce of that wealthy and cultured Virginia city. Charlottesville will pay him a salary much larger than he is receiving here, his salary here having been only \$2,100 a year. But the location of Charlottesville in a hill country and the fact that it is a college town made even a stronger appeal to Mr. Case than the larger salary. The Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce gives him up reluctantly and has asked the Charlottesville folk to let Elizabeth City keep him for another thirty days, until a new Secretary of the local Chamber of Commerce can be secured. A committee composed of Taylor Grandy, A. B. Houtz and Dr. A. L. Pendleton will seek a new secretary. Mr. Case will leave the Elizabeth City Chamber of Commerce in a robust condition, his last work having been the staging of a campaign which gives the organization 300 memberships for its fourth year and locates it in the handsome and most commodious club quarters in the city, the Chamber having taken over the Moose Club rooms in the Hinton building this week.

## SAUNDERS WILL PUBLISH A BOOK

Will Contain The Best and the Worst of Thirteen Years Of Editorizing

Partly in response to a demand from friends and well wishers, and perhaps to gratify my own vanity, I am about to publish a small book of my editorial writings. This book will contain 64 to 80 quarto pages, and the editorials selected will cover the thirteen years that I have labored with this newspaper. Some of the selections will be taken from that disappointment of earlier years, THE DOWN HOMER. I shall endeavor to present those writings that were most provocative of comment when published. I wrote some things years ago that I would not write today, but I shall present even my errors in my proposed book, otherwise such a book would not be fair to myself or the public. For instance, that editorial "The Word of God," published several years ago does not read like my later writings, and that little thing entitled "I Weep For God," will jar some of my acquaintances. But whatever your verdict may be, my book will reveal one outstanding fact; that certain ideals of tolerance, kindness, humanity and brotherhood are revealed in my writings of every period. My faith in humanity has never wavered.

The forthcoming book will carry also several of my recent editorials, including "Suicide and Religion," and the editorial, "My Concept of Life," published in this issue of THE INDEPENDENT.

The first edition of the book will be printed on antique finish deckle edge paper and bound tastefully in dark green Castilian covers. The typography and printing will be of a high order. Not more than 500 copies of the first edition will be published and they will be sold to subscribers only to help defray the expense of publishing a second and cheaper edition for newstand sales. Each copy of this limited first edition will be numbered and autographed and the paper and binding will not be duplicated in any subsequent edition. If you are interested, send one dollar now and be one of those to possess a copy of a book that will be treasured by my friends and preserved as "evidence" against me by my enemies. This specially printed, numbered and autographed edition will be supplied only to advance subscribers. Only enough copies will be printed to supply those who place advance orders.

W. O. SAUNDERS.

### CHORAL SOCIETY GIVES SECOND CONCERT TONIGHT

Tonight is the time for the second concert of the newly organized Elizabeth City, which will be presented at the high school auditorium under the direction of F. R. Hufty. This concert will comprise an interesting program of high class operatic selections and promises to be one of the best things of the sort to occur in this city in some time. An organization like the Choral Society has been one of Elizabeth City's needs for some time, as is attested by the heavy demand for tickets at Seligs' jewelry store.

## GODWIN SAYS MORMONS WRECKED HOMES HERE

Elizabeth City Man Has Followed The Vicissitudes of Elizabeth City Converts, Even Going to Salt Lake City to See Them

### FARMERS TO MIX OWN FERTILIZER

Fifty Pasquotank Farmers Make First Venture By Ordering 100,000 pounds Material

A hundred thousand pounds of fertilizer materials are to be mixed by Pasquotank farmers themselves and orders are being placed this week through a Norfolk brokerage firm for the goods, as a result of the farmers meeting in the Federal Building here last Saturday. The materials will be used in a carefully figured truck fertilizer carrying 600 pounds cotton seed meal, 1,000 pounds 16% acid phosphate, 200 pounds sulphate of potash and 200 pounds nitrate of soda to each 2,000 pounds of mixture.

Farmers of this section have been discussing the fertilizer situation for many weeks, and Saturday's meeting was one of a series extending over that time. About 50 were present last Saturday, and E. S. Scott was chairman. No other counties than Pasquotank were represented. The fifty farmers present pledged themselves to take care of the hundred thousand pounds of materials which will cost about \$4,500. Each farmer will mix the fertilizer on his own farm, and they estimate that the home-made product ready to go in the rows will cost about \$45 a ton, figuring a saving for themselves of around \$12 a ton.

The farmers also figured a fertilizer mixture for general use, carrying 1,000 pounds of acid phosphate, 800 pounds cotton seed meal, 150 pounds muriate of potash and 50 pounds of nitrate of soda to each 20,000 pounds of the finished mixture. Should results from their contemplated truck fertilizer justify, they will apply this second analysis to general crops.

**Will Discuss Warehouse**  
The warehouse proposition discussed at the meeting in the court house here two weeks ago, will again come up in a meeting called for February 12. Farmers throughout the section seem very much in favor of the project, but delay in building is augmented by the anticipation of lower cost for labor and materials in the near future.

### COLUMBIA ERECTS A NEW HIGH SCHOOL

Other Educational Improvements in Tyrrell. A Civic League is Newly Organized

A new brick High School building costing \$35,000 has just been completed at Columbia, the county seat of Tyrrell. The plant is one of the most complete in this section and is constructed entirely of brick. It is two stories high with a basement, and contains six classrooms and an auditorium, which will seat 300 people; the outside dimensions of the building being 55x82 feet. Improved features of the High school are electric lights, steam heat and a water supply system. Funds for erecting the building have been on hand for some time, but the work never got under way until 1920.

Tyrrell has made other educational improvements, the most important being one school building for whites in the county, costing \$5,500, and two colored school buildings costing \$4,000 and \$3,000 each. The superintendent of instruction reports that taxes are coming up promptly and the spirit of the county is for more and better schools.

A Civic Improvement League, the main headquarters of which is to be in Columbia, has just been organized for the general benefit of the county. The purpose of the league is to stimulate cooperation among the people of the town and county to the end of securing better schools, better roads, the beautifying of public and school buildings, and private buildings and grounds, the enactment of better laws, the better enforcement of law and to raise the standard of morals and religion in the whole county. The regular meetings of the league will be held in the auditorium of the Columbia High school on the first Friday of each month.

### BIDLATE-WALKER

Raymond Isaac Bidlate and Miss Elizabeth Walker of Norfolk were married in this city Sunday at the residence of Dr. G. W. Clarke, pastor Blackwell Memorial Baptist Church. The bride was formerly a native of this city and was raised at the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Cahoon here.

**FOR SALE**—One ton Ford truck and 2 full-blooded Duroc Jersey gilts. 10c lb. buys the hogs. For particulars as to truck, address J. H. Luton, R. F. D. 1, Elizabeth City, N. C. p4-2t

John W. Godwin, a resident of Elizabeth City who has had some harrowing personal experiences with Mormonism and who only recently returned to Elizabeth City from an extended sojourn in Salt Lake City, Utah, doesn't think much of the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints. Mr. Godwin has asked this newspaper for space to publish his views on the subject. The space is given him. Mr. Godwin writes: Editor The Independent:

My attention was attracted by the article in week before last's issue of your paper, regarding the four Mormon elders now in our midst. Also the address of Mrs. Lula Loveland Shepard, in last week's issue. Having been closely associated with several Mormons for more than twenty years and having visited (in 1917) their city (Salt Lake), their hospitals, their dance halls, their tabernacle and many other places of interest, one of which was the home where one of their prophets, once kept twelve of his wives, and feeling that I might be able to impart a profitable message to some, one who might be considering their faith, I ask permission to do so thru the columns of your worthy paper.

We note in their statement that they believe the Bible so far as it is translated correctly. In this connection I wish to say that I suppose they discovered these mistranslations in the several passages of Holy Scripture that so openly condemn many of their habits during the early history of their church, made fugitives of the whole bunch from the laws of our country—which they now claim to respect and obey—and prompted them to take refuge on the other side of the Rockies in a "no man's land" so that they might be able to indulge their polygamous appetites without being molested by our laws, or law-abiding citizens. By this move many good homes were broken up. As a result of this they were pursued by a posse of men to what is now the eastern boundary of the state of Utah, but the "liberty" seekers finally succeeded in making good their escape, which enabled them to enjoy their freedom until 1890 at which time our Government had a reckoning with them and discovered that there were several hundred polygamous families in the church.

We also note that they refer to our statements as "many stories" regarding their faith habits, etc. This is true of all Mormons with whom I have come in contact. When interviewed regarding certain reports, most of which are true, they invariably deny them. There are some facts, however, that they cannot deny because we have the proof, and for the benefit of those who are in sympathy with their faith, I will state that since they first began preaching their "new gospel" in this country two families have been broken up in this town and county, a part of whom were lured away to that Western land of "sunshine and happiness" where they can worship with their own kind. They left behind in one home the husband and in the other the son who had taken the part of the father in the home for more than ten years. It is also true that families have been broken up in some if not all, of our adjoining counties.

For more than twelve years I have had in mind, and kept in close touch thru correspondence with one family consisting of husband, wife and wife's sister, who left loved ones and friends, to enter in to this "Promised Land" where they might be healed of their afflictions by the prayers of the saints and fed from the bountiful storehouse of food which the church provides for the unfortunate. But it seems that all the manna had been gobbled up before they arrived in Utah as their struggle there these years for the sustenance of life has been exceedingly hard. It also seems true that their Mormon power of healing is less effective, for I stood by the bedside of one of this number who was regularly visited and administered to by two of the saints, only to see her pass away. I then asked those ministers why they did not possess the power they claimed and they put the whole blame on the poor soul that was dead and could not speak for herself, saying her faith was too weak.

Jesus said: "He that loveth father or mother, son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me." This being true every individual who forsakes friends and relatives for the sake of Jesus should be highly commended, but such action as a result of ignorance, prejudice or bigotry carries with it no reward and invariably results in disappointment and utter failure.

As a rule the Mormons are a good-natured, pleasant and congenial people. They love their church, their dance halls and their theatres, and every good Mormon is well prepared to furnish you with certain passages of Scripture confirming his belief as he sees it. But the tree is known by its fruits, hence we have their number.

Our country is just what our churches make it, thus we find just as much corruption in their holy city and holy temple. (Concluded on Page 4)